

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 10, 11, 17 and 18 are allowed, and claims 1-9, 13 and 16 were previously cancelled. Claims 12, 14-15 and 19-20 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 14-15 and 20 as being anticipated by Eldridge (U.S. Patent No. 6,482,013). It is submitted, however, that the claims are patentably distinguishable over Eldridge.

The Examiner contends that Eldridge discloses the use of parylene disposed between the lead and the body, and the Examiner further contends that parylene is a known compliant for conformable material, as described in Zechman (U.S. Patent No. 5,656,830). Though Eldridge shows (in Fig. 9B) an insulating layer, such as parylene, located on the spring contact element and on the surface of the body, the figure also shows a gap disposed between the part of the insulating layer that covers the spring contact element and the part of the insulating layer that covers the surface of the body. Further, the figure shows that the insulating layer does not cover the tip end of the spring contact element. Thus, Eldridge does not show the insulating layer *filling* the space between the spring contact element and the surface of the body. Moreover, Eldridge describes that the insulating layer (i) has a thickness of *between 1-10 μ m*, (ii) should *only be of sufficient thickness* to be continuous and to provide a desired impedance, (iii) and *should not be so thick as to interfere with the mechanical operation of the spring contact element*. (See col. 21, lines 13-18 and 20-44). Thus, the patent fails to provide any incentive for *filling* the space between the spring contact element and the surface of the body with an insulating layer and also teaches *away* from such use of the insulating layer.

Additionally, though the Zechman patent describes coating a chip's conductive wires with a conformable dielectric coating and Zechman further describes that parylene is such a coating, Zechman uses the term conformable to describe the property of a material that is applied by *vapor deposition*. (See col. 1, lines 45-46; col. 2, lines 30-38; and col. 3, lines 11-27). During the vapor deposition of parylene or other such materials, the parylene vapor deposits onto all exposed surfaces in the vaporization chamber, including the conductive wires, and forms a coating that *conforms to the shape of the surface* upon which it is deposited. Hence, when Zechman describes that the coating is conformable, the patent is specifying that the coating *conforms to the shape* of the conductive wires *as result of its being vapor deposited* onto the wires. Zechman does not teach that such a material is *compliant*, such as in the context of a compliant encapsulant.

Therefore, Eldridge neither discloses nor suggests:

a compliant encapsulant filling the space between at least one of said flexible leads and said front surface of said body.

as called for in claim 12.

It follows that Eldridge neither discloses nor suggests the combination called for in claim 12 and does not anticipate the claim.

Claims 14, 15 and 20 depend from claim 12, and each further defines and limits the invention set out in the independent claim. It follows that each of claims 14, 15 and 20 defines a combination that is patentably distinguishable over Eldridge at least for the same reasons.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also objected to claim 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that the

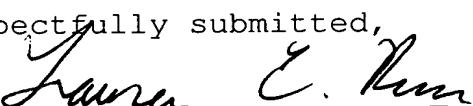
claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The claim has been amended accordingly. It is therefore submitted that claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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